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DCI's Introduction of National
Secretary Guest Speaker
Dorthy Nelms
April 24, 1980

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DCI Introduction of National
Secretary Guest Speaker,
Dorothy Nelms
24 April 1980

Thank you Mary Jean, and I'm particularly pleased that this event is an outgrowth of our establishing a DCI Secretarial MAG a little over two years ago. And I'm glad to see this additional evidence of interest, concern and cohesiveness in the secretarial ranks of the Agency and pledge to you, Mary Jean, continued support to the MAG group.

It isn't often that we have an opportunity like this under MAG sponsorship to get together to honor almost a third of our employees in this Agency--some 27% of our employees are clerical or secretarial employees, and I think there are many times when I'm sincerely persuaded that your contribution to the success of the Agency is far more than 27%. Our business, as you well know, is providing information. You can't do that unless you can process, type, retrieve, store, handle all of this information as it flows from the collectors to the analysts and from the analysts to a finished product. The clerical, the secretarial input in that process is absolutely vital. There isn't one of you here who doesn't know that in this Agency in particular, our ability to do those steps expeditiously and to do it frequently under great pressure is very, very important. So often what we have to say, so often the input that we can make to the decision process of our country is perishable, and if we can't get quick response, if we don't have dedicated secretaries who don't punch a clock

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but do what has to be done, who'll respond as I've always seen you in marvelously cheerful ways, no matter how trying, how pressing, how demanding are the requirements, we wouldn't make those deadlines, we wouldn't make those inputs in a timely manner.

In addition, we require in this unique Agency, not only clerical and secretarial personnel who are highly qualified technically, but who are of the most upstanding character. Nothing is more important in these halls than secrecy. And if we do not have utterly the highest quality of people in this organization, we will ultimately tumble for an inability to keep our necessary secrets. And so, we are particularly grateful for the high quality of people that we see around us all the time. I think I was only here a couple of months, when I actually made a complaint about the secretarial support here. I said it was too good, all my government career I've said, you know, I don't mind a strikeover, I don't mind lining something through with my pen or writing a note on the bottom of an official letter if I have an extra thought instead of having it retyped, and I even put out a couple of memos around here and said let's do that. Well, I must say, I've been defeated in three years. The sense of pride in the secretarial element of this Agency is so great, that every time I do that somebody sneaks it out before I can deliver it and redoes it in utterly letter perfect form, and I'm grateful for that kind of pride, because it does mean

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that with it, we get the security, we get the timeliness, we get the accuracy, we get the attractiveness of our presentation, each element of which is very important to our doing the job that we do and which is so vital to our country.

I'm very pleased today that we have with us Dorothy Nelms to speak with us on this occasion of honoring our secretarial and clerical help. Dorothy is National President of Federally Employed Women, as you know, an organization of some 239 chapters across this country, a very valuable organization for bringing together into one forum, information, views, opinions that are of interest to people in the Federal Government in the secretarial, clerical ranks and very valuable to all of you in looking after the interests of these people on Capitol Hill is all too often that inadvertently, perhaps, a piece of legislation can be proposed that doesn't take into account the interests, the needs, the proper concerns of the secretarial and clerical people in our government. And Dorothy and her organization are alert and very helpful in bringing those problems to the fore so that they can be taken care of before we have a law on the books that is difficult to change. Dorothy retired in 1978 after 28 years of Federal service, she knows the field, she knows what the problems are, she knows her way around to help find solutions to them. She is a dynamic, perfect leader for this organization. We are very grateful to have her here to share her views with us this afternoon. I give you Dorothy Nelms.

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